



**H.Res. 851 - Honoring local and state first responders, and the citizens of the Pacific Northwest in facing the severe winter storm of December 2 and 3, 2007**

**FLOOR SITUATION**

H.Res. 851 is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative David Wu (D-OR) on December 6, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, but no action was taken.

H.Res. 851 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 17, 2007.

**SUMMARY**

H.Res. 851 expresses that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the citizens of the Pacific Northwest for their courage in facing the storm and efforts in helping their neighbors in a time of great need;
- Honors the National Weather Service, State and local police officers, fire fighters, local rescue personnel, other first responders, and amateur radio operators for their efforts in the face of the severe storm;
- Extends its thoughts and prayers to those whose lives have been devastated, and who have lost their housing, transportation, communications, water, heat, or electricity; and
- Extends its profound and deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those who perished.

**BACKGROUND**

On December 2 and 3, 2007, a storm with winds exceeding 120 miles per hour struck Oregon and Washington, toppled trees, felled power lines, and destroyed homes and businesses. More than ten inches of rain fell in 24 hours, inundating parts of Oregon and Washington, causing rivers to overflow, flooding homes, schools, businesses, and roads.

The combination of hurricane-force winds and torrential rains caused devastating damage that isolated towns, left citizens without housing, transportation, communications, water, heat, or electricity.

The Oregon and Washington National Guard and the U.S. Coast Guard rescued hundreds of individuals trapped in or on their homes by rising water. The people of Oregon and Washington helped each other, opening their homes, schools, churches, and businesses to shelter their neighbors.

**STAFF CONTACT**

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